

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 04043 301020Z
ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 L-03
EB-08 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /144 W
-----016508 301058Z /14

P R 300833Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8342
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
SECDEF WASHDC
JCS WASHDC
CSA
CNO
CSAF
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CIMCMAC SCOTT AB FL
USCINCRED MACDILL AB FL
CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 4043

DEPT PASS AID FOR OFDA

OTTAWA FOR CIDA - FRED SMITH

GENEVA FOR UNDRO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, MOPS, US, SU
SUBJ: SOUTHERN SUDAN RELIEF - C-130 CREWS

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REF: STATE 211439

1. SUDANGOV HAS OFFICIALLY ADVISED US THAT AMERICAN C-130 CREWS NO LONGER REQUIRED. ACCOMPANIED BY DATT, I DISCUSSED ISSUES RAISED REFTEL WITH SUDAN AIR FORCE COMMANDER MAJOR GENERAL MOHAMAD MIRGHANI MONDAY AUGUST 28. I STRESSED THAT USG WAS PREPARED TO PROVIDE CREWS

BUT NOTED THAT WE HAD BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING RELEASE OF LOCKHEED CREWS FROM SAUDI ARABIA. MIRGHANI AGREED THAT SUDANGOV WOULD NOT WANT TO HAVE USAF PLANES FLYING BETWEEN KHARTOUM AND JUBA AND HE UNDERSTOOD THAT USAF CREWS COULD NOT SERVE UNDER SUDANESE COMMAND. I OBSERVED THAT WE EXPECTED ANOTHER MONTH AT LEAST WOULD LIKELY PASS BEFORE WE COULD PROVIDE CREWS. NOTING THAT SITUATION IN SOUTH SEEMED TO HAVE EASED, I ASKED MIRGHANI WHETHER SUDANGOV STILL WISHED USG TO PROVIDE CREWS.

2. MIRGHANI MENTIONED THAT AT ANY GIVEN TIME HALF HIS C-130'S WERE DOWN FOR MECHANICAL/TECHNICAL REASONS. HE ALSO SAID THAT NEWLY-TRAINED SUDANESE CREW MEMBERS WERE BECOMING AVAILABLE. THEREFORE, HE BELIEVED NEED FOR U.S. C-130 CREWS HAD PASSED. HOWEVER, SINCE ORIGINAL REQUEST HAD COME FROM FORMER MINDEF HE WISHED CONFIRM THIS JUDGMENT WITH CHIEF OF STAFF. HE DID SO TUESDAY AND INFORMED DATT THAT COS AGREED U.S. C-130 CREWS NO LONGER NEEDED.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY DISAPPOINTED THAT PROVISION OF CREWS TURNED OUT TO BE SO DIFFICULT, ESPECIALLY AFTER ALL THE WORK THAT WENT INTO TRYING TO SECURE THEM. MIRGHANI SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY THAT USG REMAINED WILLING PROVIDE CREWS IF SUDANGOV REALLY NEEDED THEM. THEREFORE, HE DISPLAYED NO ANGER OR BITTERNESS, BUT WE UNCLASSIFIED

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BELIEVE HE ALSO DISAPPOINTED. EMBASSY APPRECIATES EFFORT MADE BY AID/OFDA AND OTHERS, BUT IT NOW RPT NOW APPEARS THIS EXERCISE IS OVER. BOGOSIAN

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NNN

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